

From: [ANDERSON Jim M](#)
To: [Jane Harris](#); [\(b\) \(6\)](#); pdxharborcag@onenw.org
Cc: [Chip Humphrey](#); [OMEALY Mikell](#); [MCCLINCY Matt](#)
Subject: RE: News for you
Date: 07/21/2006 01:27 PM

[attachment "Prelim WQ SIC.pdf" deleted by Chip Humphrey/R10/USEPA/US]

Jane,

I wanted to get back to you on the water quality issue at the Schnitzer Blast Media site. I brought some information for you to the 7/12 CAG meeting, but unfortunately you weren't there..., summer's a busy time. At the 6/14 CAG meeting I said I'd do 3 things:

- 1) Accept the water sample the Schnitzer employee collected, have it analyzed for metals, & share the results with the CAG.
- 2) Talk to DEQ's Water Quality Program about conducting a surprise inspection.
- 3) Describe the protocol/process that citizens could follow to submit complaints to DEQ & have samples analyzed.

Here's where we are on the 3 issues:

1) Accept the water sample the Schnitzer employee collected, have it analyzed for metals, & share the results with the CAG.

The preliminary analytical results from the water sample are attached to this e-mail. The mercury analysis has not yet been completed. When I receive the final results for all the metals, I'll pass them on to you. We have preliminary results for 7 of the 8 metals analyzed. 6 of the 7 metals were not detected. Lead was detected at an estimated (prelimin) concentration of 0.177mg/L (or ppm). We consider a background concentration for lead in water to be about 0.013mg/L. The federal drinking water maximum contaminant concentration for lead is 0.015mg/L.

2) Talk to DEQ's Water Quality Program about conducting a surprise inspection.

The Schnitzer site has a 1200Z industrial general stormwater permit. I talked to DEQ's Water Quality Program, & they said they have the authority to conduct a surprise inspection, but they said a surprise inspection would be better timed by waiting for the fall rain season to begin. I scheduled a site visit for DEQ's Schnitzer project team in early-8/06. The purpose of the site visit is for us to get a better understanding of site operations, layout & waste management. I'll make sure we visit the pond near the shredder where the water sample was collected. I'm trying to coordinate the site visit to include Chip at EPA. I'll discuss the results of the site visit with you & keep you posted with respect to a possible surprise Water Quality inspection.

3) Describe the protocol/process that citizens could follow to submit complaints to DEQ & have samples analyzed.

The DEQ Northwest Region complaint phone # is (503) 229-5393.

If a call is not answered directly, a caller should expect a phone call back the same day or the following business day at the latest. If you leave a message, please leave your name, phone number, your address, the address related to the complaint, the county and the concern you are calling about.

The party calling should have as much info as possible, (i.e., who, what, where and when). Expect the DEQ complaint specialist to ask a lot of questions. This will better enable the complaint specialist to coordinate with the appropriate DEQ staff or program. Also, DEQ resources are limited, and we team up with other government agencies (e.g., City, County and State). Depending on the specifics of the complaint, it may be referred to another agency for follow up.

As a matter of policy, DEQ Complaints Program will not take samples collected by 3rd parties for DEQ analysis. If a party has collected a sample and want it tested, they should expect to pay for their own testing.

Requests for surprise compliance inspections or for DEQ to collect samples will be handled on a case-by-case basis. These decisions are made by DEQ program managers in consultation with the complaints specialist.

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Jane & Robin,
I'm not sure I addressed this e-mail to the CAG list serve, so if I didn't, I'd appreciate if you'd forward it to the CAG.

Thanks

James M. Anderson
DEQ Northwest Region
Portland Harbor Section
Phone (503) 229-6825
Fax (503) 229-6899